

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01878 201744Z
ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: VN CA CH PEPR
SUBJECT: JOURNALIST'S VIEW OF TENG YING-CHAU VISIT
TO KAMPUCHEA

REF: PEKING 0184

1. A JOURNALIST WITH LONG ASIAN EXPERIENCE
INFORMS US THAT HAN SU-YIN SOME TIME AGO TOLD HER
ABOUT CONVERSATIONS SHE HAD HAD WITH TENG YING-CHAU
ABOUT KAMPUCHEA. TENG SAID THAT SHE WAS DISTRESSED
BY THE INSOLENT WAY SOME OF THE KHMER
COMMUNISTS, IN PARTICULAR CHAU SENG AND IENG
SARY, TREATED SIHANOUK. WHILE NOT CHALLENGING
THEIR CREDENTIALS AS COMMUNIST LEADERS, TENG
NONETHELESS REPROACHED THEM FOR THEIR METHODS
AND THEIR MANNERS.

2. THE JOURNALIST CONCLUDED THAT TENG, AS CHOU'S
WIDOW, WOULD CONVEY TO THE PUBLIC PEKING'S
CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR KAMPUCHEA. ON THE OTHER
HAND, SHE COULD TAKE TO THE DK LEADERSHIP A TOUGH
MESSAGE THAT CHINA'S PATIENCE WAS NEAR ITS END,
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AND PHNOM PENH SHOULD ACCEPT ANY REASONABLE
VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL TO GET TALKS GOING. DK
LEADERS COULD CONCLUDE THAT THEY COULD GET NO
BETTER MESSAGE FROM PRC THAN THAT WHICH TENG WOULD
BRING. WITH THE PHAN HIEN VISIT TO CHINA, IT
WAS LIKELY THAT TENG COULD BE CARRYING SOME
CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD SATISFY HANOI AND

SAVE PHNOM PENH'S FACE AS WELL AS INTERESTS; IE
SOME "WITHDRAWAL" PLAN.

3. THE JOURNALIST ALSO NOTED THAT THE SELECTION
OF TENG ALSO SERVED AS A REMINDER TO HANOI THAT
THE 1970 INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' SUMMIT CONFERENCE,
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF CHOU EN-LAI, HAD SET FORTH
THE CHINESE POSITION CONCERNING THE INDEPENDENCE
OF EACH OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES. THE TENG
MISSION THEREFORE REMINDS EACH SIDE THAT CHINA
WISHES A SOLUTION WHICH RESOLVES THE BORDER
CONFLICT BUT LEAVES CAMBODIA INDEPENDENT.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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